



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Date:** July 5, 2000

**Comment Period Ends:** July 20, 2000

**File Number:** 199903185

**In Reply Refer To:** Greg Penta

**Or by e-mail:** gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil

## 15-DAY RESPONSE REQUESTED

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts/Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), 20 Somerset Street, Boston, Massachusetts has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to cap and close the abandoned Granite Rail quarry located on MDC property along Ricciutti Drive, Quincy, Massachusetts. The applicant's stated project purpose is to eliminate extreme safety hazards. Phase I involved completely draining the water level in the quarry to assist in a State homicide investigation. The water level has since risen about 40', to approximate elevation 40' NGVD, encompassing 30,000 square feet (SF). If allowed to restore itself, the water level would eventually reach approximate elevation 170' NGVD, expanding across 78,000 SF.

The project involves placing approximately 500,000 cubic yards of Central Artery/Tunnel excavated material, including till and clay, into the quarry. The quarry would be completely dewatered and fill would be placed to elevations of 170 to 180' NGVD, with 40 to 50' ledges remaining on the site for recreational rock climbing use. The area would be capped, loamed and seeded. The work would be performed to enhance the recreational use and historic features of the site. Trails for hiking would be maintained or restored. The work would also include restoration of existing artifacts on site related to historic quarrying activities, installation of exhibits and replicas demonstrating quarrying equipment and activities. On top of the capped areas, MDC proposes to build a recreational facility including a Public Park and scenic wetland restoration area. The project would provide additional recreational facilities for use by City of Quincy residents as well as regional users.

To compensate for the proposed impacts to open water and surrounding wetlands, it is proposed to restore and enhance degraded Wetlands 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6 & create 78,000 SF of open water area and 16,000 SF of wetlands adjacent to Wetlands 5 and 6. Restoration in Wetlands 3b, 4, 5 and 6 involves debris removal, invasive species control (Phragmites and purple loosestrife) and planting. Restoration in highly degraded Wetland 3a involves excavation and creation of a 3'-deep open water wetland. Wetlands 1 and 2 (600 SF) were destroyed when the quarry was drained and will remain permanently filled.

This project is located on the USGS Blue Hills, Massachusetts quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 4678610 N and 332070 E. The work is more accurately shown on the enclosed plans entitled "Granite Rail Quarry Project MDC Boston, MA," on six sheets.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Penta, Senior Project Manager at (978) 318-8862, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR  
DETAILS OF EVALUATION  
FACTORS

Karen Kirk Adams  
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Section  
Regulatory Branch

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- ☐ Permit, License or Assent from State.
- ☐ Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- ☐ Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_